



FIFTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of Stafford

J. T. MACNAB

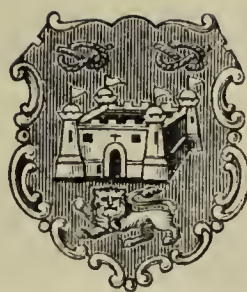
M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1926

STAFFORD :
ALLISON & BOWEN, LTD., 19, GREENGATE STREET





FIFTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of Stafford

J. T. MACNAB

M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1926

STAFFORD :

ALLISON & BOWEN, LTD., 19, GREENGATE STREET

STAFF

OF THE

Public Health Department.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
Medical Superintendent Infectious Diseases Hospital and
Medical Officer Infant Welfare Centre.

*J. T. MACNAB, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), D.P.H.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR,
Lodging-house Inspector, Inspector under the Canal Boats
Act, and Inspector under the Housing Consolidated Regula-
tions, 1925,

*JAMES H. DRURY, Cert. R. San. Inst.,
and Certificated Meat Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTOR,
*E. RAMSAY, Cert. R. San. Inst.,
and Certificated Meat Inspector.

HEALTH VISITORS,
and Assistant Sanitary Inspectors,
*MISS C. E. SUFFIELD, Cert. R. San. Inst.,
Cert. Cent. Midwives' Board.

*MISS E. E. BRIGGS, H.V. & M. & C. W. Certs. R.S.I.,
Cert. Cent. Midwives' Board.

MATRON OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL,
MISS E. SINGLETON.

CLERK,
R. FOWELL.

*Salaries contributed to under Public Health Acts or by
Exchequer Grants. All are whole-time Officers.



BOROUGH HALL,

STAFFORD.

5th April, 1927.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee.**

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Fifty-third Annual Report on the Health of Stafford.

The report is somewhat shorter than that of last year, being an ordinary report drawn up in accordance with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular No. 743, dated 20th December, 1926.

The death rate and infant mortality rate are both somewhat higher than last year, but still compare favourably with the average for towns of a similar size.

The town has been very free from infectious disease, and the zymotic death rate is considerably lower than on any previous occasion.

The progress of the new Sewage Disposal Works has been delayed by difficulty in dealing with the spent liquor from the Gas Works, but it is hoped that this has now been overcome and that the rest of the plant will soon be completed.

Satisfactory housing for the poorer families appears to be an almost insoluble problem, and as a large proportion of the younger children are to be found in these families its solution is a necessary step if the infantile mortality rate is to be kept down and loss of life from the complications of Measles and Whooping Cough in the young prevented.

I have to thank the members of the Council for their consideration and support in my work, in which I have had the loyal co-operation of all the members of the staff, and in particular to thank Miss Suffield and Mr. Drury for their help in preparing the report.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MACNAB.

REPORT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

General Statistics.

Area of Borough	...	...	...	...	3,420 acres
Population {	Census (1921)				28,635
	Registrar-General's estimate (1926)				29,270
Density of population or number of persons per acre (1926)	...	...	...	...	8.5
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	5,642
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	...	...	...	...	5,964
Number of rooms per person (1921)	...	...	...	...	1.13
Rateable value (General District Rate on 1st April, 1926)	...	...	...	...	£132,360
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£528

Social Conditions.

The chief occupations are Boot and Shoe Manufacture, and General and Electrical Engineering. No evidence has, as yet, been produced which points to widespread effects of any particular local industry upon health, except for the fact that tuberculosis is somewhat prevalent among boot and shoe operatives.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	M.	F.	
Births: Legitimate	468	235	233	Birth rate 16.4
Illegitimate	13	6	7	

This compares with 17.6, the rate for the 158 Smaller Towns of England and Wales, and with 16.7, the rate for Stafford last year.

	Total	M.	F.	
Deaths: 315	161	154		Recorded Death rate 10.8.

The death rate is affected by the age and sex of the population concerned, being, of course, higher with an elderly

population and also, to some extent, among males as compared with females of similar age.

The Registrar-General supplies a “ factor for Correction ” to each district based on the age and sex of its population as shown at the last Census. When the recorded death rate of a town is multiplied by this factor the corrected death rate is obtained. This is truly comparable with the death rate of any town similarly treated.

The factor for correction for Stafford is 0.991, and the corrected death rate is 10.66, compared with 10.6, the rate for the 158 Smaller Towns. Last year the corrected rate for Stafford was 9.18.

The causes of death are shown below :—

Causes of death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Enteric fever	—	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—
Measles	—	1	1
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	2	2
Influenza	3	—	3
Encephalitis lethargica	—	2	2
Meningococcal meningitis	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	15	11	26
Other tuberculous diseases	1	4	5
Cancer, malignant disease	18	19	37
Rheumatic fever	1	1	2
Diabetes	1	—	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	10	8	18
Heart disease	25	27	52
Arterio-sclerosis	1	1	2
Bronchitis	12	16	28
Pneumonia (all forms)	18	4	22
Other respiratory diseases	4	4	8
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	3	1	4
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	—	1	1
Appendicitis and typhlitis	—	1	1
Cirrhosis of liver	1	—	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	3	3	6
Puerperal sepsis	—	2	2
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	—	1	1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	7	11	18
Suicide	3	—	3
Other deaths from violence.....	6	2	8
Other defined diseases	29	32	61
Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—	—
Total deaths	161	154	315

The chief increases shown among the causes of death are due to heart disease, lung diseases and cancer.

Heart disease is often the result of Rheumatic fever, the causes of which are as yet imperfectly understood, but which frequently shows itself first in childhood as growing pains and recurring sore throats. Twenty-one of the fifty-two deaths occurred in persons 70 years of age and over, and in most of these old age changes of a more general character must be held responsible.

Lung diseases other than tuberculosis accounted for 58 deaths, an increase of 12 over last year. As regards climatic conditions and smoky atmosphere Stafford is not unfavourably situated, but our windows are far too often closed, particularly bedroom windows at night.

Of the cancer deaths no less than 24 (10 men and 14 women) suffered from cancer of the digestive system. The warning signs in such cases are likely to include one or more of the following :—Difficulty or discomfort in swallowing, persistent indigestion, chronic constipation, or bleeding from the bowel. If a cure is to be possible medical advice must be sought early, to wait for pain or a lump to appear is disastrous.

Deaths from the first eight headings on the list, which include most of the infectious diseases, show a welcome drop from 22 last year to 8.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1926.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales and Stafford have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1926, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1925. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years).	Total Deaths under One year.	Causes of Death Registered by Medical Practi- tioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.	
England and Wales	17.8	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.09	0.02	0.10	0.07	0.22	0.47	8.7	70	91.8	7.2	1.0	
London	17.1	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.20	0.02	0.05	0.12	0.17	0.48	11.8	64	90.6	9.4	0.0	
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18.2	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.10	0.10	0.22	0.43	11.8	73	92.0	7.5	0.5	
†158 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000).....	17.6	10.6	0.01	0.00	0.07	0.02	0.11	0.06	0.23	0.40	6.6	67	92.6	6.3	1.1	
STAFFORD	16.4	10.7	—	—	0.03	—	—	0.07	0.10	0.37	2.1	60	94.3	5.7	—	

†Hanwell U.D. having been added to Ealing M.B. on the 1st October, 1926, the figures relate to 158 towns for the first nine months and to 157 towns for the rest of the year.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child birth :—

from sepsis 2
from other causes (Molar pregnancy) ... 1

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :

Legitimate 60
Illegitimate 77
Total 60

The following table gives the infant mortality for 1926, and also for the previous ten years.

Year	Births	Under one month.		Under one year.	
		Deaths	Rate per 1000 births	Deaths	Rate per 1000 births
1916	503	14	28	35	69
1917	497	13	26	33	66
1918	461	21	45	47	102
1919	498	19	38	40	80
1920	622	17	27	41	66
1921	595	22	37	44	74
1922	496	15	30	35	70
1923	491	16	33	27	55
1924	449	17	38	33	73
1925	486	10	21	25	51
Average for 10 yrs.	509.8	16.4	32.3	36.0	70.6
1926	481	16	33	29	60

Although higher than last year the Infant Mortality Rate of 60 again compares favourably with 67, the figure for the Smaller Towns of England and Wales. It will be noticed that the mortality under one month has responded but little to the measures which have been so successful during the rest of the first year of life. Only two of the infant deaths occurred amongst the children who had attended the Welfare Centre.

From the table giving the causes of death it is seen that Premature Birth and Malformation account for a considerable majority of the whole.

Causes of Death.	Period									
	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Tuberculous meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
{ Congenital malformations	—	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	4
{ Premature birth	7	2	1	—	10	3	—	—	—	13
{ Atrophy, debility and marasmus...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Injury at birth	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis (not tuberculous)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Convulsions	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other causes	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
TOTAL	9	5	1	1	16	7	1	3	2	29

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.—There were only four deaths registered as due to Zymotic Diseases, giving a rate of 0.14, compared with 0.64, the average for the preceding ten years. This is considerably lower than the previous best.

Deaths from Scarlet fever	(all ages)	0	} Total Zymotic Deaths 4
„ „ Diphtheria	„ „	2	
„ „ Measles	„ „	1	
„ „ Whooping Cough	„ „	0	
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		1	

Death rates for :—

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, etc.	...	...	1.98
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	0.89
Tuberculosis (all forms)	...	...	1.06
Cancer	...	...	1.26

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals.

- A. (1) FEVER.—The Isolation Hospital, Tithe Barn Road (accommodation nominally 22 beds) is provided jointly by the Stafford Borough Council and the Stafford Rural District Council.
- (2) SMALL POX.—The Corporation are members of the South Staffordshire Joint Small Pox Hospital Board, and are thus part proprietors of the Small Pox Hospital at Moxley, to which any cases of the disease will be admitted.
- B. (1) TUBERCULOSIS.—Local cases are treated in the Institutions provided by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.
- (2) MATERNITY HOSPITALS.—Nil.
- (3) CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS.—The general accommodation of the Staffordshire General Infirmary.
- (4) GENERAL.—Staffordshire General Infirmary, Stafford.
- (5) POOR LAW.—Stafford Board of Guardians, Marston Road.

Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance, provided by the British Red Cross Society, is used for the town and surrounding district. The ambulance, which is housed in a local garage, is used for general ambulance work, and also for infectious cases (subject to disinfection). Application should be made to the Police, Stafford (Tel. No. 1, Stafford).

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(a) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.—One centre at the Wesley Schools, Queen Street, provided by the Borough Council, and staffed by the Public Health Department, with assistance from the Guild of Social Welfare. This centre is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and from 2 to 4 p.m., Wednesday mornings being set apart for Ante-natal cases.

(b) SCHOOL CLINIC.—For minor ailments, dental, ear, nose and throat, and ophthalmic. In Mill Bank. Provided by the County Education Committee.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—In Mill Bank, provided by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton, and Dudley Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.

(d) ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC.—In premises situated in the basement of the Staffordshire General Infirmary. Provided by the Stafford Cripples' Centre. The arrangements under which Child Welfare cases are able to benefit from this are mentioned under Maternity and Child Welfare.

(e) VENEREAL DISEASES.—The nearest clinics are those provided by the Stafford County Council at Wolverhampton, Stoke-on-Trent and Lichfield Hospitals.

Home Nursing.

The general nursing of the District is provided by the Stafford District Nurses Society, Tipping Street. The Society also provides nursing for cases of Measles and other ailments of the young, when requested by the Medical Officer of Health to do so, and receives an annual grant from the Council for this.

Midwives.

The Council does not employ or subsidise practising midwives. Seven midwives practised in the Borough during 1926, all of whom were certificated.

Chemical Work.

Water analysis is carried out by the County Analyst at Wolverhampton. The reports on the town supply from Milford continue to be most satisfactory, but samples taken from wells in the Doxey area were found to be unfit for drinking.

Adoptive Acts, etc., in Force in the District.

	Date of Adoption.
ADOPTIVE ACTS RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.	
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 ...	1891
Baths and Wash-houses Acts	1891
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ...	1891
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Parts II., III. (except Sections 39 to 42 inclusive), IV., V., VI., and X.)	1923
Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II. (except Section 34), III., IV., and V.	1926

LOCAL ACTS.

Stafford Corporation Acts of 1876, 1880, and 1896.

BYE-LAWS.

Relating to Cleansing Streets, Slaughterhouses and Common Lodging Houses	1874
Relating to Water Closets (made under Stafford Corporation Act, 1896)	1897
Relating to Noxious or Offensive Trades	1923
Relating to New Streets and Buildings	1914

Steps are being taken to adopt new model Bye-laws for Slaughterhouses and Common Lodging Houses.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

During the year the water main has been extended to the village of Dunston, a distance of about four miles from Stafford, and the whole of the property along the line of the extended main has been connected up. Various other main extensions have taken place as new property has been erected.

A start has been made with the construction of the new Reinforced Concrete Service Reservoir to contain one million gallons of water. When this is brought into commission the total storage capacity will be equal to rather more than two days' consumption.

At the end of the year there were still 13 houses at Doxey which did not obtain their water supply from the town mains. On November 11th, 1926, samples of water were obtained from the pumps at eight of these houses, and six were found to be polluted and unfit for drinking purposes. The Public Health Committee gave instructions for notices to be served on the owners to provide a proper supply of water. Upon an inspection being made early this year three of these houses had been connected to the water mains.

Rivers and Streams.

Further analyses of water from the Sow and Penk were made for the Standing Committee on Rivers Pollution during the year. These again show that as a rule the water is quite as well oxygenated below the town as above it, but until the new sewage works are completed the position must remain unsatisfactory.

Sewage Disposal.

The first section of the new Sewage Disposal Works on the Activated Sludge principle has now been in operation for 12 months and is working satisfactorily. The completion of the scheme has been delayed whilst experiments are being carried out at the Gas Works with a view to reducing the volume of gas liquor to be discharged into the sewers as this is an important factor materially affecting the design of the Sewage Disposal Plant.

Closet Accommodation.

There are approximately 4,369 water closets with flushing cisterns and 2,243 waste water closets in the Borough. The number of pail and midden privies is about 14 in outlying houses.

The waste water closets still continue to give a great deal of trouble. Out of 1,753 stoppages, 1,374 were in waste water closets. The number of stoppages is 133 less than last year, and has been falling steadily for the past six years. There is evidence to show that this is due partly to greater care by the householders as well as to the conversion of slop closets

into W.C.s with flushing cisterns. It is encouraging to note that during the year 40 such conversions were carried out.

Eighty-five of the stoppages in waste water closets were caused by articles which should not have been allowed to get into the drains, these articles consisting of tin cans, scrubbing brushes, etc. The cans are mostly dropped down the W.C. shafts by children, and the scrubbing brushes, etc., by not being removed from the buckets before these are emptied down the W.C.s. When this occurs it is almost impossible for them to be recovered without special apparatus owing to the shafts being so deep. It is difficult to fix the blame as in many cases the article causing the stoppage finds its way into a common drain ; a number of cautions have been sent in cases of this nature.

Another reason for stoppage appears to be inefficient flushing, the amount of water going down the drains to some of the closets being very small, and this in a number of cases is combined with a very small amount of fall to the drain.

Scavenging.

The Corporation have recently undertaken the collection of house refuse from the Burton Manor Estate, which is situated outside the Borough Boundary. As it is considered that the collection of house refuse from this Estate and the outlying districts of the Borough can be more economically carried out by mechanically driven than by horse driven vehicles, the Council have purchased a petrol driven refuse collecting vehicle with a capacity of six cubic yards, and this is now in operation.

The gradual replacement of open wooden tubs by covered galvanised iron bins has been continued ; and, during the year, notices have been served in respect of 299 houses calling on the owners to provide such receptacles.

2,359 galvanised bins have been purchased from the Corporation since the commencement of the scheme for the abolition of the uncovered wooden receptacles about six years ago, and, in addition, a considerable number have been obtained privately.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Mr. J. H. Drury, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, presents the following table summarising the routine work of the year.

The scope and extent of this work continue to increase, owing not only to the advance of the town but also to the

steady increase in Public Health legislation. Its importance and the part it plays in improving the health of the town have been pointed out in recent annual reports.

	No. of		Notices.		Nuisances abated.	
	Inspections	Defects	Informal 1	Statutory 2	1	2
Visits to dwelling-houses	3142	...	...	...	...	...
Houses requiring cleansing	2	1	1	...	1	...
Structural defects ...	37	26	16	8	4	4
Housing of Working Classes Act	289	...	5	11	1	10
Lodging-houses	26	3	3	...	1	...
Factories & Work-shops	222	40	40	...	28	...
Dairies & Milkshops	58	5	5	...	3	...
Cowsheds	104	9	7	...	5	...
Bakehouses	58	7	7	...	7	...
Slaughterhouses	602	11	11	...	11	...
Fried Fish Shops ...	69	14	11	...	11	...
Canal Boats .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ashpits & want of receptacles for refuse.	616	299	221	69	146	63
Deposits of refuse & manure	132	19	7	...	7	...
Water Closets	347	196	133	52	75	39
House drainage defects	299	138	128	36	86	28
Water supply	5	2	2	...	2	...
Animals improperly kept	17	8	8	...	8	...
Offensive Trades other than Fried Fish Shops	9	2	2	...	1	...
Defective yard pavements	13	9	9	3	6	1
Other nuisances	27	16	13	3	8	3
Overcrowding	3	1	1	1	...	...
Closet stoppages cleared .....	...	1753	...	...	...	...
	6077	2559	630	183	411	148

Unwholesome food :—

Number of surrenders ...	...	...	...	...	201
Number of seizures ...	...	...	...	...	0
Condemned by Magistrate ...	...	...	...	...	0
Prosecutions for exposing for sale	...	...	...	...	0
Convictions for exposing for sale	...	...	...	...	0

Precautions against Infectious Disease :—

Lots of infected bedding disinfected or destroyed	124
Houses disinfected after infectious disease ...	126

Smoke Abatement.

During the year seventeen fixed smoke observations have been made of the smoke emitted from the various chimney stacks within the Borough, in addition to general observations.

In several cases interviews have been held and letters written where it was found necessary. A number of improvements have been effected.

The town is fairly free from smoke except at the extreme north end, where the Salt Works are situated. Here 22 stacks emit smoke which spreads over a large area and is a considerable source of nuisance, although there is no great volume of dense black smoke from any particular chimney.

Fortunately there are no houses on that side of the works towards which the prevailing winds carry most of the smoke, but it appears to cause damage to trees in the vicinity. In the preparation of salt by evaporating brine it seems difficult to avoid the production of this smoke.

As the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926, comes into force on the 1st July it will be essential on and after that date for less smoke to be emitted from the industrial chimney than there has been in the past.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

Milk Producers	...	...	...	...	20
Retail Purveyors of Milk in the Borough					40
Retail Purveyors of Milk whose premises are					
outside the Borough	...	...	...		24
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...		4
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	27
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	19

There are no Bye-laws in force in the Borough relating to houses let in lodgings or for tents, vans, sheds, etc., and there is no need for regulations in regard to underground sleeping rooms. Many of the producers of milk are also enumerated amongst the retailers.

Offensive Trades.

There are now 27 Offensive Trades on the Register, of which 24 are fried fish shops, fish frying having been declared an Offensive Trade on June 18th, 1923, and 78 visits have been made to these premises. The remainder consists of 1 fell-monger, 1 rag and bone merchant, and 1 gut scraper.

Several applications to establish the trade of fish frying were refused during the year, owing to the unsuitability of the proposed premises. The public need in this direction would appear to be well supplied, and the general standard of the establishments in the town has improved since the Council obtained control over them.

Factory and Workshop Acts.

INSPECTIONS.—81 inspections of Factories and 199 of Workshops and Workplaces were made. 47 defects were discovered and action was taken to have these remedied where necessary.

HOMEWORK.—Lists of outworkers were received as follows :—

Wearing Apparel (making)

(Twice a year) 10 lists relating to 13 workmen.

(Once a year) 10 lists relating to 23 workmen.

Umbrellas (twice a year) 2 lists relating to 2 workmen.

No prosecutions were necessary.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.—The workshops on the Register at the end of the year were :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	24
Boot-making and repairing	...	...	...	...	27
Dressmaking	...	...	...	...	4
Tailors	...	...	...	...	17
Milliners	...	...	...	...	7
Cycle and Motor repairing	...	...	...	...	17
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	71
					<hr/>
					167 °
					<hr/>

Miss Suffield, Health Visitor, in addition to her other duties, carried out inspections in 25 factories and 11 workrooms where women were employed, and reported 6 defects in factories and 2 in workrooms.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.	Prosecu- tions.
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries) ...	81	5	—
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	182	5	—
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)	17	—	—
Total	280	10	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.*				
Want of cleanliness	19	17	—	—
Want of ventilation	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	2	2	—	—
SANITARY ACCOMMODA- TION.				
Insufficient	3	1	—	—
Unsuitable or de- fective	22	15	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
OFFENCES UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORK- SHOP ACTS.				
Illegal occupation of underground bake- house (s. 101) —	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total	47	35	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Cinemas, Etc.

Visits have been paid to these premises, and they have been found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

Canal Boats Acts.

No boats have been inspected during the year, the branch of the canal inside the Borough not being used.

Schools.

A sanitary survey of each school is made three times a year by the School Medical Inspector, whose reports are considered by the Education Authority, any necessary action being taken.

When absence from school is suspected to be due to illness, duplicate reports are sent by the Head Teacher to the Deputy School Medical Officer and to the M.O.H. Where necessary the School Nurse visits the home to investigate.

Convalescents from infectious disease and contacts, who have been excluded from school, are reported to the Deputy School Medical Officer by the M.O.H., and are seen by one of the Medical Inspectors at the School Clinic before being allowed to return to school.

HOUSING.

The following table shows the number of houses erected in the town from 1920 to the end of 1926. It is inserted to correct the table given last year from which a number of houses were accidentally omitted.

	Corporation.	Subsidy.	Other.	TOTAL.
1920	35	—	5	40
1921	92	—	4	96
1922	95	—	5	100
1923	—	4	18	22
1924	40	58	8	106
1925	83	58	9	150
1926	79	71	6	156
TOTAL	424	191	55	670

The total of 156 houses for the year is the highest since the war, and is evenly divided between the Corporation and private enterprise aided by the subsidy.

The difficulty of housing the unskilled worker or the casual labourer who has a family of young children is, however, still unsolved. The Local Authorities now build mainly for persons who used to be catered for by the speculative builder before the war, while those whom the Housing of the Working Classes Acts were originally designed to aid remain in overcrowded conditions. The rents charged by the Corporation not being economic rents none who are doubtful payers can be accepted as tenants, whatever the need of the family.

In one such case brought to the notice of the Housing Committee during the year eleven persons were crowded into a three-roomed house. No alternative house being available, efforts were made to get the family into the workhouse but without success. Meanwhile two of the children fell ill with Whooping Cough, the baby dying under housing conditions which never gave it a chance from the start.

The needs of this group of families are urgent and do not seem to have been appreciably touched by the post-war housing schemes. Houses built 8 or 12 to the acre with separate bathrooms are never likely to be available for them. The economic rent is too high, and though the houses are let at reduced charges the position is hardly eased, for there is now less margin than ever for bad debts, and "references" are required which this class can seldom obtain.

The older houses vacated by those moving up are not very numerous; they seldom have a bath at all, and if in private ownership, can only be let on business lines at economic rents and therefore not to this class of tenant.

Blocks of flats have been suggested as a way out of the difficulty, but houses built in rows or terraces even at more than 20 to the acre are surely preferable.

By fixing the bath in the scullery and running hot water to it from a copper at a slightly higher level, it has been found possible to dispense with the hot water cylinder, etc., and by

omitting the separate bathroom to provide a better scullery and the house as a whole is cheaper.

I would urge that a group of houses to meet the needs of these people is required, and that the consent of the Minister of Health be asked for a scheme which will include a greater density of houses to the acre and the provision of baths in the sculleries.

Housing Statistics for Year 1926.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b)	... ..	156
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :		
(i.) By the Local Authority	... ..	79
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	... ..	71

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	1566
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	... ..	266
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation (previously reported, 95) reported during 1926	... ..	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	516

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action taken by the Local Authority or their Officers	472
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.	Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	11
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	by owners	10
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	0

B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	278
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	by owners	206
*(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	29

*This item represents the number of W.C. flushing cisterns repaired and number of dustbins provided by the Corporation in default of owners.

C.	Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.	
(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

There are 20 cowkeepers and 40 milk sellers registered within the Borough. In addition, the names of 24 persons who reside outside and retail milk inside the Borough are on the Register. 104 visits were paid to the cowsheds, and 58 to the milkshops ; in each case the occupier's attention was called to the requirements as to cleansing and lime-washing ; these were complied with.

The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, made under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, came into operation on October 1st, 1926, and contains many useful and more stringent provisions for the control of the milk industry which should result in a cleaner milk supply. A number of the provisions applying more particularly to structural alterations do not come into force immediately.

The cow keepers and milk retailers in the Borough have been visited, and the provisions of the regulations explained to them, the need for them, and the way in which they may be carried out. A circular containing some of the main provisions was sent out ; and a supply of larger bills which can be mounted and hung in the cowshed was obtained and offered to cow keepers, but so far only two applications for them have been made.

A good deal of difficulty is being found in getting some of the provisions in regard to cleanliness satisfactorily carried out, such as cleanliness of the udders, milking stools, etc., but progress has been made. In one or two instances good results have been obtained, and with these put forward as examples it is hoped that eventually all the milk produced inside the Borough will be obtained under clean conditions.

(b) Meat, etc.

The total amount of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 15 tons 15½ cwts., from 205 carcasses,

classified as follows :—Oxen, 96 ; sheep, 51 ; pigs, 26 ; calves, 32. In 76 cases the reason for condemnation was tuberculous disease in various forms.

Much of the meat condemned is from carcasses of animals slaughtered in emergency, and sent into the town for inspection before disposal. The inspector is always asked by the butchers to see these as many of them are unfit for food.

The condemned meat is sold to a horse slaughterer and bone dealer to be made into manure. It is removed to the Corporation Depot, weighed and placed in a lock-up shed, where it is treated with disinfectant. The contractor is then informed, and the meat is weighed again before leaving the Depot.

Meat Regulations.

The remarks with reference to these regulations made in the last report still apply. The open window is still in evidence, and the tendency is for a larger number of shops where food is exposed for sale to have their windows open some part of the day.

Classification of Slaughterhouses.

		In 1920.	In Jan., 1926.	In Dec., 1926.
Registered	...	11	9	9
Licensed	...	11	11	10
		—	—	—
		22	20	19
		—	—	—

One licensed slaughterhouse has been discontinued during the year, the Corporation not renewing the license. There is considerable doubt as to the correctness of the above classification of the various slaughterhouses, and investigations are being made with a view to arriving at a more exact allocation to the two classes.

Other Foods.

During the year 130lbs. of fish were condemned and surrendered as unfit for food.

Regular observations have been made of the food stuffs exposed for sale in the Market Hall, and they were found to be in a sound condition.

Alterations carried out by the Markets Committee to the fish market by laying down a cement floor, cementing the walls, and providing stalls with slate slabs, have been a great improvement ; it can now be kept thoroughly clean and the atmosphere is much sweeter. Further improvement has been effected by re-planing and improving the shelves, tables and slabs of the stalls in the butchers' market, repairing and painting the walls, more prompt removal of refuse at the closing of the market, and improved ventilation.

Observations and inspections have been made of the bakehouses and other premises where food is manufactured, stored, or exposed for sale, including fried fish shops, shops where bacon, etc., is sold, and premises where it is washed or stored, and every endeavour is made that the food supply of the town should be produced and sold in a reasonable state of cleanliness.

Ice Cream Shops.

There are 48 premises on which ice cream is made in the Borough. 54 inspections have been made. The majority of these places are small shops, and the ice cream is made during the summer months. The utensils and premises were kept in a generally clean condition.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During 1926 the town has remained very free from notifiable infectious disease as a whole. Scarlet fever cases were rather numerous but much fewer than last year, and were chiefly of that mild variety which is so difficult to control.

Each year it is interesting to note that the houses in which Scarlet fever and Diphtheria occur appear to display the same degree of overcrowding compared with the rest of the town ; that is, they have 0.8 rooms per person as compared with 1.13, the average for the town at the Census.

To house some of these families properly may be financially uneconomic, but will it not play its part in reducing the incidence of infectious disease in the town generally ?

Infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) notified during the 52 weeks from 3rd January 1926 to 1st January 1927.

Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages.	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over	Removed to Isolation Hospital.
Scarlet Fever .....Cases .....Deaths.....	68 —	— —	1 —	1 —	3 —	4 —	35 —	10 —	3 —	11 —	— —	— —	— —	60 —
Diphtheria .....Cases .....Deaths ...	6 2	— —	— —	*1 —	1 1	— —	2 —	1 —	— —	1 —	— —	1 —	— —	4 —
Paratyphoid B. ....Cases .....Deaths ...	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Puerperal Fever .....Cases .....Deaths ...	3 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 1	1 *1	— —	— —	— —
Puerperal Pyrexia.....Cases .....Deaths ...	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —
Pneumonia .....Cases .....Deaths ...	56 12	— —	2 1	2 —	4 —	1 —	4 —	4 —	2 2	12 1	10 —	11 6	4 2	— —
Encephalitis Lethargica Cases .....Deaths ...	2 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 †2	— —	1 —	— —	— —
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...Cases .....Deaths ...	1 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	*1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Erysipelas .....Cases .....Deaths ...	14 2	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	7 —	4 1	1 1	— —
Chicken Pox .....Cases .....Deaths ...	107 —	8 —	3 —	3 —	8 —	9 —	67 —	7 —	2 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —

*Un-notified

†One notified in 1924.

Small Pox.

The number of Smallpox cases notified in England and Wales during the year was 10,205, of which only six occurred in Staffordshire. Although the Borough has remained free, the occurrence of such large numbers of cases in the country shows the risk of invasion to be very real. The continued neglect of vaccination is very regrettable, and will prove a serious handicap in controlling the disease should it unfortunately gain a footing in the district.

VACCINATION STATISTICS.—The subjoined figures for 1925 apply to the whole of the Stafford Union.

Births registered	...	...	...	658
Successfully vaccinated	...	...	...	225
Exemptions	...	...	...	403
Died unvaccinated	...	...	...	23
Removed	...	...	...	7
				<hr/> 658 <hr/>

Scarlet Fever.

The 68 cases were evenly distributed throughout the year, and were mostly mild in type, all of them recovered. The more severe cases, especially in the younger children, were treated with scarlet fever streptococcus antitoxin with encouraging results. One house had three cases; five, two cases each; and 54 houses had single cases. One case was removed from an institution. One child developed the disease 15 days after his sister had returned from the Isolation Hospital. No sign of catarrh or other source of infection could be discovered in the sister, and she appears to have infected no one else.

With regard to the effect of domestic overcrowding—in the infected houses there were 0.84 rooms per person as compared with 1.13 for the town as a whole. The houses where multiple cases occurred had only 0.72 rooms per person.

Case rate per 1,000 living, for Stafford 2.32; for England and Wales 2.10.

Diphtheria.

Only six cases were notified, but an additional case was diagnosed post mortem, making seven in all. There was one other death. In both the fatal cases medical aid was only sought when the patient was already moribund. The cases occurred at intervals from one another, and in separate houses.

The infected houses had only 0.80 rooms per person.

Case rate per 1,000 living, for Stafford 0.24 ; for England and Wales 1.31.

The continued freedom of the town from Diphtheria is gratifying, but it will be noted that lives are still lost from failure to obtain medical aid promptly. This must be attributed in part to the insidious onset of the disease.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is offered through the Welfare Centre for children under school age ; but up to the present only a few parents have taken advantage of this.

Enteric Fever.

One case of Paratyphoid B. infection was notified in a patient who only spent the week ends in Stafford. The source of infection could not be traced.

Case rate per 1,000, for Stafford 0.03 ; for England and Wales 0.07.

Puerperal Fever.

Three cases were notified, one of which ended fatally. There was also an acute case in which death occurred before notification.

Rate for Stafford, 0.14 ; for England and Wales, 0.07.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case was notified under the new Regulations, which came into force during the last quarter of the year.

Rate for Stafford, 0.12 ; for England and Wales, 0.19.

Pneumonia.

Fifty-six cases were notified, twelve of whom died. Steps are taken to obtain assistance, such as nursing or extra nourishment when it is required. The relief for such necessitous cases has been obtained from the Guild of Social Welfare and from the Guardians.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

Two cases were notified, one of whom died. Another death certified as due to this disease was in a patient who was notified in 1924.

Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Two cases occurred during the year. One of these, which ended fatally, was admitted to the General Infirmary for diagnosis, and owing to a misunderstanding was never notified.

Erysipelas.

Fourteen cases were notified, two of whom died.

Case rate per 1,000, for Stafford 0.48 ; for England and Wales, 0.38.

Chicken Pox.

One hundred and seven cases were notified, 90 by doctors ; in the other cases the diagnosis was confirmed by the M.O.H.

Measles.

Measles was not very prevalent during the year. The largest number of cases occurred in May, and one of these died. The Health Visitors paid 77 primary and 28 re-visits.

Whooping Cough.

The town was very free from this disease till the end of November when an outbreak began which extended into 1927. The 40 primary and 18 re-visits made in the year took place almost entirely at this time.

In both Measles and Whooping Cough the school intimations often prove valuable in directing attention to the homes of infants which have been invaded. The Health Visitors are then able to urge that medical attention be obtained at least for these youngest ones in whom the attacks are apt to be most serious. This, of course, can only be done when the school intimation is received soon after the absence of the first case from school.

Bacteriological.

The County Laboratory at Lichfield, provided by the Stafford County Council, undertakes bacteriological examinations in suspected cases of Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Enteric Fever, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, and Malaria; and also the Wassermann test for Syphilis. This service is available, without charge, to medical practitioners. All Diphtheria cases at the Isolation Hospital are thus tested for freedom from infection before discharge. It is also desirable that those who have been in close contact with a case of Diphtheria should be tested, in case they are harbouring infection, and arrangements are made to get this done as far as possible. Where necessary a virulence test is carried out to enable a persistent carrier of non-virulent bacilli to be released from unnecessary restrictions.

During the year reports on the following were received by the Medical Officer of Health :—

Swabs examined for Diphtheria bacilli ...	...	192
„ „ „ „ (Virulence Test)		1
Specimens examined for Typhoid bacilli ...	...	3
Blood examined for Widal reaction ...	...	5
Sputum examined for Tubercle bacilli ...	...	22

Issue of Diphtheria Antitoxin, Etc.

Supplies of Diphtheria antitoxin are available at the public expense for necessitous cases. These are used by medical practitioners for the treatment of cases of Diphtheria or possible Diphtheria, it being of the utmost importance that such treatment should be commenced without waiting for bacteriological confirmation, and so losing valuable time.

Few, if any, cases of this disease will fail to do well if given a sufficient dose of antitoxin on the first day of the illness.

Diphtheria Toxin-Antitoxin is provided for the use of medical practitioners in protecting those children whose parents desire it.

Isolation Hospital.

Ninety-nine cases were admitted, classified as follows :—

Disease.	Stafford Borough.	Stafford Rural District.	Other Districts.	Total.
Scarlet Fever.....	61*	19	4	84
Diphtheria	4	2	1	7
Tonsilitis	4	1	—	5
Erythema	2	—	—	2
Pyrexia	—	—	1	1
Total	71	22	6	99

*One notified in December, 1925.

There were no deaths during the year.

My gratitude is again due to Miss Singleton for her successful management of the hospital.

Electric light has been installed throughout the establishment, a much appreciated improvement.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases were notified, both of whom recovered completely, but one died at the age of two months from Spina bifida.

	CASES		Vision un- impaired	Vision impaired	Total blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At home	In hospital				
2	2	0	2	0	0	0

Tuberculosis.

Analysis of the new cases and deaths during the 52 weeks from 3rd January, 1926, to 1st January, 1927 :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1— 5	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	1
5—10	1	1	—	5	—	—	—	1
10—15	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
15—20	2	1	2	—	2	1	—	—
20—25	4	6	1	1	1	5	—	—
25—35	5	6	—	1	4	3	—	1
35—45	7	3	2	—	5	1	1	—
45—55	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
55—65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	22	19	8	11	15	11	1	4

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action was necessary under either of these provisions, the former of which relates to tuberculous employees in the milk trade and the latter to compulsory removal of infectious cases to hospital.

The death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis in Stafford for 1926 was 1.06, a figure which has only been bettered on two occasions.

Year.	Number of deaths.		Rate per 1,000.			New Cases.
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total.	
1916	24	10	1.12	0.46	1.58	68
1917	19	6	0.80	0.25	1.05	46
1918	34	2	1.40	0.08	1.48	51
1919	25	7	0.94	0.26	1.20	65
1920	30	9	1.08	0.32	1.40	61
1921	30	7	1.03	0.24	1.27	53
1922	29	7	0.99	0.24	1.23	40
1923	26	2	0.88	0.07	0.95	57
1924	29	6	1.01	0.21	1.22	56
1925	27	5	0.93	0.17	1.10	76
1926	26	5	0.89	0.17	1.06	60
Average for England and Wales (1925)			0.83	0.21	1.04	

The " Balance sheet " for the register may be given as follows :—

Number on register at			
31st December, 1925	216	Deaths in 1926	... 33
Notifications in 1926	54	Removals	... 9
Transfers from other		" Cured "	... 5
districts ...	4	Number on register at	
Un-notified deaths	2	31st December, 1926	229
	<hr/> 276 <hr/>		<hr/> 276 <hr/>

NOTIFICATION.—Only two deaths attributed to tuberculosis were in un-notified cases. One, a case of meningitis, was in a child only two months old, and the other a case of long standing hip disease was thought by the doctor in attendance to have been notified years ago.

Year.	Number of Un-notified Deaths.	Average interval between notification and Death.
1916	6	10.8 months
1917	5	8.9 "
1918	17	18.4 "
1919	15	12.9 "
1920	11	8.5 "
1921	5	9.5 "
1922	8	20.7 "
1923	4	13.3 "
1924	8	18.4 "
1925	7	18.1 "
1926	2	14.0 "

Twenty-eight cases from the Borough of Stafford were admitted as in-patients to the following institutions during 1926 :—

Prestwood Sanatorium	... ..	13
Edge View Tuberculosis Hospital	... ..	5
Groundslow Sanatorium	... ..	5
Yarnfield Tuberculosis Hospital	... ..	3
Himley Children's Sanatorium	... ..	2

AFTER-CARE.—The Stafford Guild of Social Welfare have agreed to undertake this work in the area. An annual grant up to £2 per case relieved is made by the Joint Committee

towards the expenses of the After-care Committee, but it cannot be too widely known that the primary aim of the Committee is not to relieve distress amongst the tuberculous but rather to help them to become self supporting. All cases are submitted to the Committee by the Tuberculosis Officer and the following is a brief summary of the main objects of the work :—

1. To allay any fears that may exist as to the danger of infection in early cases, subject to the patient taking reasonable precautions.
2. Finding suitable employment and providing clothing and food in necessitous cases.
3. The provision of beds and bedding to enable patients to sleep alone.
4. When necessary to assist the families of patients who are under treatment in residential institutions.
5. To take a general interest in the welfare of cases submitted to their care, and if necessary to visit them at their own homes. These visits are not intended to take the place of the visits paid by the Health Visitors appointed by the Council.

HEALTH VISITING.—The Health Visitors have paid 53 primary visits to tuberculous persons on notification and 728 subsequent visits. The housing difficulty is still acute and even infectious cases cannot always arrange to sleep alone.

Shelters have been provided by the Joint Committee for use by patients residing in the area, but many of the worst cases are not well enough to sleep outside, and they are not always willing to be removed to Hospital even when accommodation is available. There is no doubt that patients do much better in shelters than when they sleep in small ill-ventilated rooms, but it requires a considerable amount of determination to persevere with the treatment, especially during the winter months.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births Acts.

498 births were notified (425 by midwives, 28 by parents, and 45 by doctors). Nineteen other births are known to have

occurred, making 517 births taking place in the Borough during the year. Of this total 96.3% were notified in accordance with the above Acts.

Health Visiting.

The following is a summary of visits in regard to Infant Welfare :—

Births.	Primary visits	...	...	...	...	457
	Re-visits	...	...	...	...	1662
Ante-natal visits.	Primary	...	...	...	...	152
	Re-visits	...	...	...	...	71
Visits to older children (1-5)		...	...	...	...	1873
Inquiries into infant deaths		...	...	...	...	27
Infant Life Protection (Children's Act, 1908)		...	...	...	...	26
Unclassified visits	...	...	...	...	...	123

It will be seen that the great majority of the births are visited, and that the older children (1-5) receive their share of attention too, an important part of the work which has been greatly expanded since the appointment of a second Health Visitor.

Infant Welfare Centre.

The returns for the first complete year in the new premises at the Wesley Schools, Queen Street, show a large increase in attendances, the Centre being open from 10 a.m. to noon and from 2 to 4 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Ante-natal consultations are held on Wednesday mornings, and the attendances have been quite encouraging in view of the fact that no inducements, such as free meals, are provided and there is no maternity home in connection with the Centre.

The death of 16 infants within one month of birth, to which number must be added 26 still births, shows that there is scope for saving infant life in this work as well as for the care of the mother during pregnancy.

Short talks to mothers are now given at the Centre during some of the afternoon sessions, as the new premises contain suitable accommodation for this.

Co-operation with the midwifery service is encouraged by the fact that one of the midwives from the District Nursing Association attends at the afternoon sessions to assist.

Number of Consultation days	...	...	...	92
New cases registered	...	...	...	263
Total attendances	...	...	...	5125
Average attendance per week (two sessions)	...	...	...	111

Ante-natal consultations :

New cases registered	...	...	...	35
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	55

Thanks are due to the members of the Maternity Committee of the Guild of Social Welfare for regular assistance on Centre days, an indispensable help in the running of the Centre, also for loan of Maternity Bags to necessitous cases ; to the Mayor's Fund for clothing for the mothers and children ; and to the Guild's Boot Fund for boots for children under school age.

Baby Day.

Miss Suffield contributes the following account :—

The Baby Week Celebrations were held during the last week in June.

The B.W.T.A. organised a meeting for Mothers and Babies on the 22nd June. It was well attended, the Medical Officer of Health giving the address.

As usual a circular letter was sent to the clergy and ministers of religion inviting their co-operation by preaching special sermons on June 27th.

Shop window displays were made by the Chemists and Drapers supplying mothers' and children's garments. These displays are becoming a special feature of Baby Week, their spectacular and educational value is immense.

The Welfare Centre in Queen Street was open to the public on Monday, the 28th. It was visited by members of the general public. The mothers attending the Centre also

brought friends. The pram parade prizes were on view, and were greatly admired, as was also the specimen decorated perambulator kindly lent for a whole month by Messrs. Brookfields Successors. This perambulator was decorated by the able assistance of Mrs. Drury, and was of great help to the mothers in solving the knotty problem of how to decorate a perambulator.

The chief excitement of the week was the Garden Party in the Victoria Pleasure Grounds on Wednesday, June 30th. It was preceded by a Decorated Pram Parade, which, favoured by glorious weather, presented a pretty and animated appearance as it passed through the principal streets. The perambulators were judged in the Market Hall, the judges having great difficulty in awarding the prizes owing to the excellence of the work ; for this reason it was decided to follow the precedent of the previous year and award a small consolation prize to each unsuccessful competitor. As on previous occasions the artificial flower section was the largest. The real flower section being somewhat larger than last year.

The Parade left the Market Hall in record time, and formed a procession headed by the Borough Military Band, the Police, the Mayor in his robes and chain of office, preceded by the Mace Bearer, followed by members of the Town Council, Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, the judges, and the competitors.

A large crowd lined the route, which was by way of Greengate Street and Newport Road to the Victoria Pleasure Grounds. Councillor Mrs. South, J.P., welcomed the guests, and tea was very expeditiously served by Mrs. Jackson and a large number of willing helpers. The Pram Parade Prizes and Mothercraft prizes were presented by the Mayoress. Mrs. R. J. Young presented the Blumer shield, medals, and certificates. The judging for this competition took place on the 24th June, and was kindly undertaken by Dr. Bradley.

The Band played selections of music until 6 p.m.

Free Supply of Milk to Mothers and Infants.

This has been continued throughout the year, and, owing to the persistence of unemployment, has been of great value in enabling these mothers to feed their children satis-

factorily. Number of applications received, 137. Of these, 127 were granted and 10 refused. The numbers on the list rose from 45 on January 1st to 69 on December 31st.

Every effort is made to encourage breast feeding. Even in those cases where it has already been given up, a fresh start is often made with success. Of 417 children who completed the age of nine months during 1926 :—

81% were breast fed at the first visit,
65% were breast fed at the end of three months, and
56% were breast fed for over six months, while
12% were artificially fed from birth.

This work is still handicapped by unwise advice given by those about the mother to the effect that her milk does not suit the baby. Very often the real fault is not in the milk, but in the way in which it is given. For example, trouble often arises from indigestion, due to too free a flow of milk which the mother has not known how to control even if she has recognised the cause of the difficulty.

Orthopædic Treatment.

The Medical Officer is authorised to send any necessitous cases attending the centre, who require orthopædic treatment, to the Clinic in Stafford, and during the year 13 benefitted by this. The cases comprised congenital deformities, birth injuries, and one or two children of migratory families who were found to be suffering from rickety deformities.

Maternity Beds.

The size of the town would not appear to justify the provision of a Municipal Maternity Home, but if an annexe to the Infirmary could be provided there is no doubt that it would fill a great want, both in cases of abnormal labour and in those cases where the mothers' home conditions are unsatisfactory. The difficulty of financing any such scheme appears to be considerable.

Co-ordination with the School Medical Service.

Abnormal children are, as far as possible, reported to the School Medical Department on reaching school age.

Information with regard to houses infected with Measles and Whooping Cough is largely derived from reports received from the school teachers by arrangement with the School Medical Department, and any homes where there are children under five are visited.



